

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—FOREST SERVICE  
**MAMMOTH-HIGH SIERRA**  
INYO-SIERRA NATIONAL FORESTS  
CALIFORNIA  
1967

Scale 0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

LEGEND

- |                         |   |                                       |                               |                      |                      |                          |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| District Ranger Station | Wilderness Boundary   | U.S. Highway                          | Forest Road Number            | Improved Campground  | Pack or Riding Stock | Observation Point        |
| Forest Service Station  | Boundary of area in which cross-country motor vehicle traffic is prohibited, except on improved roads | State Highway                         | Good Road                     | Improved Picnic Area | Stock Pasture        | Place of Interest        |
| National Forest Land    | Private Land  | Main Road—(40 Mi. per hr. & over)     | Poor Road                     | Improved Camp Site   | Boat Landing         | Interpretive Sign        |
|                         |   | Secondary Road—(20 to 40 Mi. per hr.) | Maintained Trail              | Camp Site            | Resort               | Airport or Landing Strip |
|                         |   | Poor Road—(Under 20 Mi. per hr.)      | Infrequently Maintained Trail | Trailer Space        | Winter Sports Area   |                          |



Only you can prevent forest fires





Skelton Lake near Duck Pass in the John Muir Wilderness.



Shamrock Lake with the Conness Glacier to the left and North Peak on the right.



On the Minaret Vista Nature Trail near Mammoth Lakes.



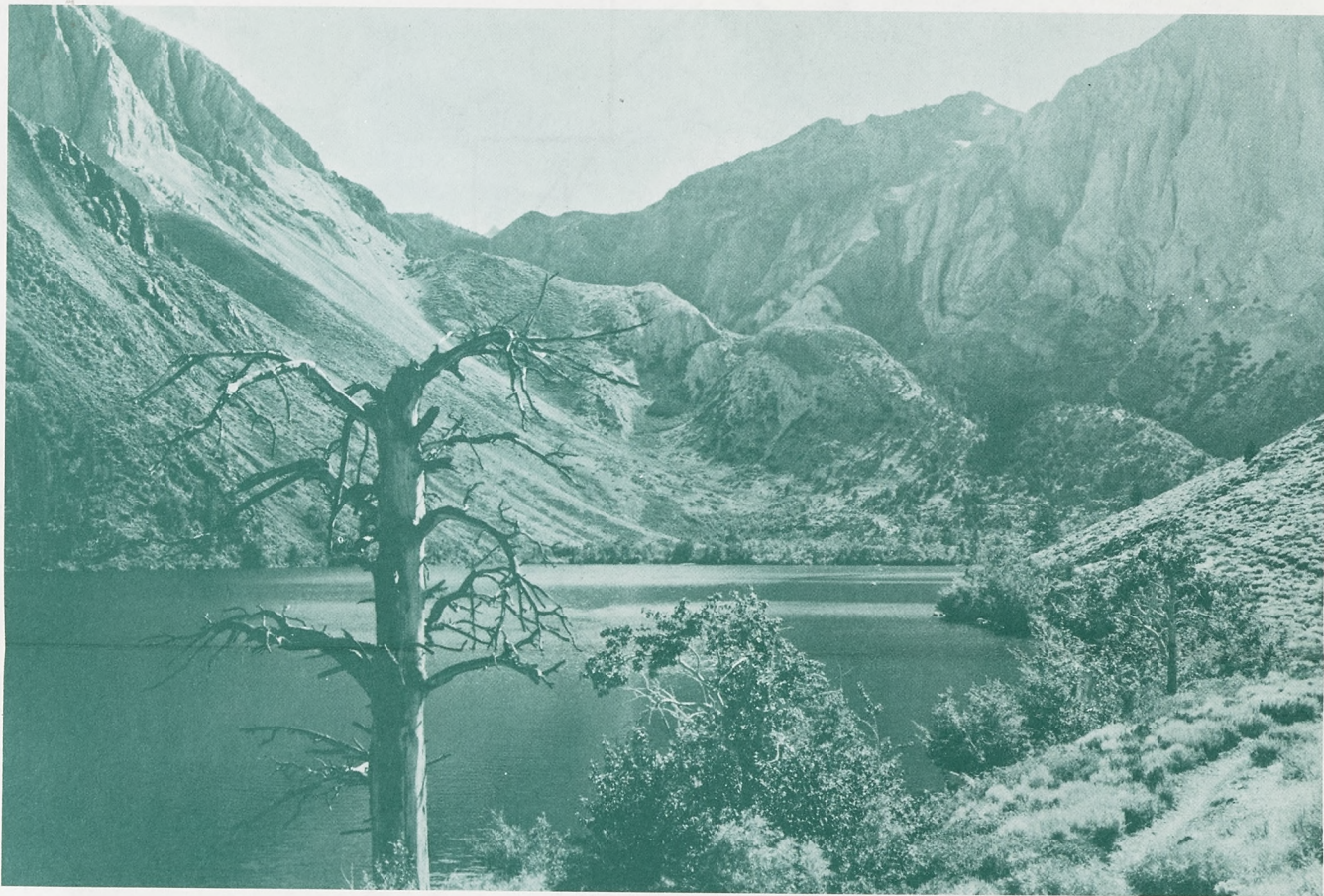
Sky Meadows and Mammoth Crest in the John Muir Wilderness.

## Welcome to the Inyo and Sierra National Forests!

"A land born of fire — sculptured by ice." This phrase from the book *Mammoth-Sierra* is a good description of this rugged section of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Peaks along the Sierra crest reach 13,000 feet, and some exceed 14,000. These uplifted lands have been modified by erosion as well as volcanic and glacial forces, leaving the jagged Minarets, Bear Creek Spire, and the Palisades to highlight the spectacular panorama of this scenic recreational area.

The dense forests and deep canyons of the San Joaquin River basin contrast sharply with the alpine high country of the Hoover, Minarets, and John Muir Wilderness and with the open Jeffrey pine forest and far-reaching sagebrush of the eastern slopes.

This land offers much to the recreationist — deep lakes and clear streams, green meadows and darker green forests, sheer peaks and sandy plains. But most of all, it is a place to enjoy the out-of-doors. There is a wide variety of things to see and do in the one and a quarter million acres of the Inyo and Sierra National Forests.



Convict Lake.

Good hikers, however youthful, know the value of signing the trail register before starting.

The out-of-doors is great, even when the fish don't bite.

### Visitor Information

You are invited to learn more about natural history Indian lore, history, and forest management from the exhibits and visitor programs. The Mammoth Visitor Center is the hub of services which include evening amphitheater programs, guided walks, and exhibits during the summer, and evening programs in the winter.

Self-guided walks at Minaret Vista, Hot Creek, and Earthquake Fault and informational signs at Glass Flow, Inyo Craters, Mono Craters, and Twin Lakes Vista help the visitor to enjoy and appreciate unusual features of the area.

Information centers at High Sierra Ranger Station, Lee Vining Ranger Station and the ranger's office in Bishop offer information, maps, brochures, and displays. The Mammoth Visitor Center is a new building combining the forest ranger's offices and a visitor center with exhibit room and auditorium.

### Points of Interest

Rugged peaks, snowfields, and glaciers form a background for many unusual features and points of interest. Outstanding alpine scenery and plant life are the highlights of Tioga Pass country at the north end of this area. You can fish at Saddlebag Lake, elevation 10,051 feet, or take an easy walk into the Hoover Wilderness and enjoy the fine views of the Conness Glacier.

A hike to the remnants of Bennettville gives an insight into early mining days. Here you can visualize the backbreaking labor needed to drive tunnels into hard rock, or haul mining machinery up the face of the cliffs. Traveling the new Tioga Pass highway rewards the visitor with outstanding views of Lee Vining Canyon and Mt. Dana. The swift descent from Tioga Pass leads to the semi-desert expanse of the Mono Basin. Mono Lake, the remnant of an ancient glacial lake, dominates the scene. Standing out above the plain are the Mono Craters, among the youngest evidence of volcanic activity to be found in California. The Glass Flow is a dome of obsidian which was pushed up through a vent, or opening, in the earth. Farther south, spectacular blast

pits were formed at the Inyo Craters by the force of superheated gasses from beneath the earth. These craters are some of the best evidence of recent and violent volcanic activity. Radio carbon dating places their age at approximately 450 years. Other volcanic features fall roughly in a line between the Mono Craters and Mammoth Mountain, and include the popular Earthquake Fault along the Minaret Summit road. The fault is really a crack in the earth which reaches 60 feet in depth.

To the west is the Devils Postpile National Monument, administered by the National Park Service. Six-sided columns of basalt form interesting and unusual cliffs. Spectacular Rainbow Falls on the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River is an easy walk from a parking area near Reds Meadow.

Old mining ruins and Indian caves are the subjects of guided tours in the Mammoth area. At Hot Creek Fish Hatchery east of Mammoth, lunger trout swim lazily about in spawning tanks. Downstream you may swim among geysers and bubbles of hot water.

All along the eastern Sierra escarpment are fine examples of glacial action. Moraines (rocks and earth deposited by glaciers) are easy to spot along Bishop Creek, Pine Creek, and in the June Lake Loop. The U-shaped glacial valleys of Pine Creek, Rock Creek and Lee Vining Creek are classic examples of the force and power of flowing ice. At Palisade Glacier, east of Big Pine, the southernmost glacier in the country grinds rock into flour which colors the streams a milky green. Glacial polish near Sotcher Lake in the Reds Meadow area and striations (marks on bedrock made by glaciers) high in Lee Vining Canyon attest to the depth and extent of the ice which flowed through the valley during glacial times many thousands of years ago.

### Winter Sports

Mammoth—High Sierra offers much to the skier, the ice skater, snowmobile enthusiast, and all who like to sled and throw snowballs. The ski area at Mammoth Mountain offers chairlifts, T-bars, gondola, and other facilities. Other ski areas at June Mountain

and China Peak offer chairlifts and T-Bars. There are many areas for snow play on California Highway 168 west of Fresno. Snowmobiles are common in the mountain communities, and annual races are held in February at Mammoth Lakes. Ice skating is popular on June Lake during most years. Cross-country skiing is gaining popularity as more and more visitors come to Mammoth — High Sierra in winter.

### Camping

This above all is camping country. Campgrounds are headquarters for wilderness visits, trips to areas of unusual interest, and as bases for fishing. A Golden Eagle Passport (good for a year) or a Daily Permit is required in most campgrounds in the area. Developed campgrounds in the National Forest are under this fee system. Usually the camping season lasts from May to October (depending upon snow conditions). Whether you camp in the front country, or the high country, July and August are the most popular months. However, September is often the best time to visit because the campgrounds are less crowded and the weather is usually fine. Nearly 1,500 campsites in over 60 campgrounds provide facilities for tents, trailers, pickup campers and other forms of camping. Lists of campgrounds, showing the facilities and locations, are available from Inyo and Sierra National Forest headquarters.

### Hunting and Fishing

This area supports some of the most distinctive wildlife found in the west. The golden trout, California's State fish, is stocked in many high country lakes. Also stocked are rainbow, brown, and brook trout, and Kokanee salmon. The California Department of Fish and Game lists Mono, Fresno, and Inyo Counties as the leading trout-fishing counties in the State.

Hunting is also popular in season. Mule deer grow sleek and fat on high country browse, and small game includes jack rabbits, grouse, quail, and chukar. Co-operative efforts of California Department of Fish and Game and the Forest Service are aimed at maintenance of wildlife populations and the improvement of their habitat.

Several rare species of animals are found in the area. They are protected by State law. The California bighorn sheep once ranged in scattered locations from the southern Sierra to British Columbia. Now only about 500 of this race of bighorn are left in the United States and a large number of these are found between Convict Creek and Mt. Langley to the south. A band of 300 Tule elk roams the Owens Valley south of Big Pine, while the wolverine and Sierra red fox are seen occasionally in the sub-alpine areas of the Sierra.

### Your Forest at Work

Little noticed by visitors, over 20,000 sheep graze the brush slopes in the basin. Sustained production of food and fiber is another element of the multiple use management which characterizes this and other National Forests.

Trucks haul timber to mills in the San Joaquin Valley and as far as Gardnerville or Reno, Nevada. Logging is done carefully with an eye to protection of scenery and recreational potential. The development of new methods of removing timber, improving timber stands and processing woods are interesting stories.



DISCOVER AMERICA

Water from the west slopes of this area flows down the San Joaquin River on its way to irrigate some of the Nation's most productive farmland. The waters of the Owens River, to the east, are collected in the Los Angeles Aqueduct and flow over 300 miles to provide over 60 percent of the water for the City of Los Angeles. Hydroelectric plants on both rivers supply tremendous volumes of electrical energy.

### For a Pleasant Visit

Some rules are necessary even in the out-of-doors. Please observe camp or picnic ground rules posted at entrances or near campsites. Vehicles are restricted from the Wilderness and on roads in the Reds Meadow area. Remember, the water you see in this area may end up in your home in Los Angeles or Fresno. Don't pollute it. If you visit the back country and plan to enter a National Park, contact the National Park Service first. In National Parks, firearms and other hunting devices are prohibited; and dogs, cats, and other pets are not permitted in roadless areas or along trails.



Fisherman on Rose Lake.

Gondola lift at Mammoth Mountain.



Rose Lake. Mount Hooper is high peak to right of center.



Mammoth-High Sierra Recreation Area

Inyo and Sierra National Forests

FOREST SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CALIFORNIA



1987